

(Washington, DC)— The House Appropriations Committee announced earlier this week that the House FY2007 Transportation Appropriations bill will include \$8.5 million for the improvement and upgrades of buses and bus facilities. Of this funding, Congresswoman Gwen Moore is personally responsible for securing \$4 million. Traditionally, facilities in Wisconsin's Fourth Congressional District receive approximately one-third of the total funding each year, which is used for bus upgrades and other capital needs of forty-eight Wisconsin urban area transit systems. Congresswoman Moore requested the \$4 million for Wisconsin's public transit system earlier this year.

"The Milwaukee area public transportation system is a critical means for so many of my constituents to get to work and to enable them to reach job opportunities in the other markets to which our bus system travels," said Congresswoman Moore. "This funding would help make improvements to this system by making sure more buses meet the needs of my disabled constituents, and that their diesel engines will provide for cleaner air in southeastern Wisconsin."

The \$8.5 million will be used by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) to fund bus capital upgrades and other capital equipment needs for the entire state of Wisconsin. Buses will be equipped with wheelchair lifts and clean diesel engines, improving rider accessibility and helping buses comply with today's more stringent environmental standards.

The House Treasury, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill is expected to pass when the House votes on it later this month. After passage, the Senate will consider its own version. Later in the year, a House-Senate conference will reconcile the two versions, upon which time each chamber will vote on final passage.

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